



NORTHFLEET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



*Annual Report of the Medical Officer
of Health for the Year ended
December, 1943.*

BY

M. F. McDONNELL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

(Medical Officer of Health).

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
NORTHFLEET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Annual Report of the Public Health conditions of the district for the year ended December, 1943.

The report is, on the instructions of the Ministry of Health, presented in an abbreviated form again this year, and certain particulars regarding vital statistics have had to be omitted for reasons of national security.

I would take this opportunity of thanking the Council for continued interest and support.

Your obedient Servant,

M. F. McDONNELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillor J. HAYNES (Chairman)

„ G. GOUGE, J.P.

„ S. LAWRANCE

„ T. S. WHITE

„ Mrs. G. S. LANE, J.P.

„ Mrs. B. E. BARKER

„ Mrs. V. G. WESTCOTT, J.P.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

All members of the Health Committee, together with the following who attended in a consultative capacity :—

Mesdames HUMPHREY, HUNTLEY, WESTCOTT,
SMITH, WHITCHELLO and WHITE.

Clerk :

Mr. W. G. FUTCHER.

Solicitor :

Mr. F. W. JONES.

Medical Officer of Health :

M. F. McDONNELL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Maternity and Child Welfare Officer :

JAMES CRAWFORD, M.B., B.Ch.

Sanitary Inspectors :

J. S. COWPLAND, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat Inspector.

G. H. SUGGITT, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat Inspector, Cert. A.R.P.S.

Health Visitor :

Miss M. E. CHICK, S.R.N., S.C.M., A.R.San.I.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (as constituted at 30th June, 1935) acres (.393 Tidal Water)	.....	3,770
Population (Census 1931)	.....	16,080
Number of inhabited houses (31st March, 1943)	.....	5,001
Number of new houses erected year ended 31st December	.....	Nil.
Number of families or separate occupiers (1931)	.....	3,723
Rateable value 31st December, 1943	.....	£111,126
Sum represented by a penny rate (1943)	.....	£457.7

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT.

BIRTH RATE. During the year there were 269 births, equivalent to an annual birth rate of 17.0 per 1,000 of the estimated population.

INFANT MORTALITY. Eighteen deaths occurred among children under one year of age, which is equivalent to 64.7 per 1,000 births, as against 49 for the whole country.

STILLBIRTHS. Male 4, Female 3, Total 7, Rate per 1,000 live births 25.8.

DEATH RATE. The general death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population is 12.1, which can be considered satisfactory.

	Total	M.	F.		
Live. Legitimate	263	132	131	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	17.0
Illegitimate	8	1	7		
Stillbirths	7	4	3	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	25.5
Deaths	191	88	103	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	12.0

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	.....	64.7
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	.....	64.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	.....	125.6
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	.....	24
„ „ Measles (all ages)	.....	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	.....	1
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	.....	5
Birth-rates, Death-rates, analysis of Mortality, Maternal death-rates and case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1943	} England and Wales, London, 126 } Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns.	

PROVISIONAL FIGURES BASED ON WEEKLY AND QUARTERLY RETURNS.

	England and Wales	116 County Boro's and Great Towns Populations including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident 25,300 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	Adminis- trative County London.	Northfleet.
Rates per 1,000 Population.					
Births :—					
Live	16.5	18.6	19.4	15.8	17.0
Still	0.5	0.63	0.61	0.45	0.44
Deaths :—					
All causes	12.1	14.2	12.7	15.0	12.0
Typhoid & Para- typhoid Fevers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	—	—	—	0.00	0.00
Measles	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.06
Diphtheria	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.00
Influenza	0.37	0.36	0.37	0.27	0.06
Notifications :—					
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	3.01	3.29	3.54	3.80	2.77
Diphtheria	0.88	1.12	0.77	0.74	0.06
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	—
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Erysipelas	0.31	0.35	0.27	0.42	0.25
Pneumonia	1.34	1.62	1.16	1.27	0.82
Cerebral Spinal Fever	0.08	0.10	0.06	0.09	0.06
Measles	9.88	9.23	9.77	9.17	5.23
Whooping Cough	2.54	2.82	2.25	2.68	0.25
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.					
Deaths under 1 year of age	49	58	46	58	64.7
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age.....	5.3	7.9	4.4	10.4	18.45
Rates per 1,000 total Births (Live and Still)					
Maternal Mortality :—					
Puerperal Sepsis	0.39				3.60
Others	1.45	Not available			3.60
Notifications :—					
Puerperal Fever	11.68	15.1	9.26	3.05	0.00
Puerperal pyrexia }				15.23	

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Midwives.

This service is under the control of the County Council who have appointed the following as County Midwives :—

Miss W. E. WHITAKER	8, Park Avenue.
Mrs. F. E. PLUMB	8, Park Avenue.
Mrs. A. R. BROWNRIDGE	27, Cobham Street, Gravesend. (for Rosherville area).
Mrs. D. M. KEMP	67, Broomfield Road, Swanscombe.
Other midwife practising in the district :—	
Mrs. F. E. HOLLOWAY	43, Mitchell Avenue.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The work at the Centre continues very usefully and efficiently. The average weekly attendance at the Centre has been 154. The total attendances of children during the year were 7,792. There were 228 new attendances. It is found that mothers are becoming more aware of the benefits of attending such a Centre and are taking advantage of facilities offered.

The Centre is open on two days of the week, when the Medical Officer attends with the Health Visitor. The Health Visitor, who is fully trained nurse and a midwife, also attends the Ante-Natal Clinic.

Infant Welfare Centres.

- (a) Total number of attendances at all Centres during the year :—
- | | | |
|--|-------|-------|
| (i) By children under 1 year of age | ..... | 2,756 |
| (ii) By children between the ages of 1 and 5 years | ..... | 715 |
| Total | ..... | 3,471 |
- (b) Total number of children who attended the Centres for the first time during the year, and who on the date of their first attendance were :—
- | | | |
|--|-------|-----|
| (i) Under 1 year of age | ..... | 209 |
| (ii) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years | ..... | 19 |
- (c) Total number of children who attended at the Centres during the year and who, at the end of the year were :—
- | | | |
|--|-------|-----|
| (i) Under 1 year of age | ..... | 151 |
| (ii) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years | ..... | 291 |

Ante-Natal Clinics.

- | | | |
|---|-------|----|
| (a) Number of clinics provided and maintained by the Council | ..... | 1 |
| (b) Total number of attendances by expectant mothers at all clinics during the year | ..... | 93 |
| (c) Total number of expectant mothers who attended the clinics during the year | ..... | 43 |

School Medical Services.

Minor ailments	West Kent House, Station Road, Northfleet.	Saturdays at 9.30 a.m.
Dental	No fixed clinics. Temporary clinics are arranged as occasion demands.	
Ophthalmic	West Kent House, Station Road, Northfleet.	Thursdays at 1. 30 p.m..

Tuberculosis Dispensaries.

13, New Road, Rochester	Tuesdays 2-3 p.m.	Fridays, 9.30—10.30 a.m.
Gravesend and North Kent Hospital, Gravesend.	Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m.	

Venereal Diseases.

36, New Road, Rochester	Tuesdays 1.30—5.30 p.m. Thursdays 11.0 a.m.—1.0 p.m.
22, Cobham Street, Gravesend	MEN—Tuesday 11.0 a.m.—1.0 p.m. Thursdays, 2.0 p.m.—4.0 p.m.

The undermentioned figures show the number of cases suffering from V.D. attending the Rochester and Gravesend V.D. Clinics from the Northfleet Urban District :—

Syphilis.....	6	Gonorrhoea.....	2
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Minor Ailments Clinic.

Number of attendances by children under 5 years	1,110
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PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following temporary arrangements have been made for the reception and treatment of cases of infectious diseases :—

Smallpox to Capel Hospital, Paddock Wood (Tel. Pembury 17).
Other cases to Dartford (Bow Arrow) Isolation Hospital (Tel. Dartford 3369).

Scarlet Fever.

Cases notified	.....	.....	18
Cases removed to Hospital			5
Percentage of cases removed			31.3

Diphtheria.

Cases notified	.....	.....	2
Cases removed to Hospital			2
Percentage of cases removed			100.0

Enteric Fever.

Cases notified	Nil.
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Tuberculosis.

Cases notified—	M.	F.	Total
Pul.	15	11	26
Non-Pul.	3	1	4
Deaths—			
Pul.	5	5	10
Non-Pul.	—	1	1

Sonne Dysentry.

Cases notified	.....	.....	6
Cases removed to Hospital			1

Tuberculosis.

Statement of particulars appearing on the register of notifications of cases of Tuberculosis for the year ended 31st December, 1943.

	Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.			Pul. and Non-Pul. Totals
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
(a) No. of cases of Tuberculosis on the register at the commencement of the year	49	36	85	11	12	23	108
(b) No. of cases remaining on the register at the end of the year	61	41	102	12	12	24	126

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Clinics are held daily at the Council Offices from 10-11 a.m. and twice weekly at the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic in the afternoons from 3-4 p.m.

PRESENT POSITION.

	Under 5 years.	Between 5 and 15 years.
Percentage immunised	57.1	71.3
Total number of children immunised during the year	242	453

Scabies.

During the year treatment for persons suffering from Scabies was provided at Brookvale Depot and 170 persons and contacts were treated, 5 cases were treated at their homes.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Reports received on samples taken from various taps on the Gravesend and Milton Water Works Co. supply.

Date of Samples 1943.	No. of organisms per c.c. capable of growth on Agar at		Remarks.
	37°C.	22°C.	
27th January	0	0	Good Waters
	0	0	" "
23rd February	0	18	" "
	4	13	" "
31st March	3	0	" "
	0	0	" "
5th May	3	56	" "
	0	177	Satisfactory
26th May	7	46	Good Waters
	0	21	" "
30th June	2	20	" "
28th July	0	0	" "
	5	27	" "
1st September	3	5	" "
	0	0	" "
29th September	0	0	" "
	0	0	" "
3rd November	2	19	Good Waters
	0	8	" "
1st December	0	0	" "
	0	12	" "
30th December	0	0	" "
	0	0	" "

During the year samples of water were taken for chemical analysis. The following are the results :—

	Ex Grove Road Emergency Water Tank.	College Road Water Tanks.
	Parts per 100,000	
Total solid residue	22.0	38.5
Chlorine	1.8	7.7
Free Ammonia	0.0	0.000
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0	0.001
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.4	0.2
Oxygen absorbed, $\frac{1}{4}$ hour at 80°F.	0.013	0.019
„ „ 4 hours at 80°F.	0.019	0.032
Nitrites	Absent	Absent

These waters are of excellent organic quality.

Water from Wells at Bowaters Works. Water from A.P.C.M. Works Canteen.
Parts per 100,000 :

Total solid residue	34.5	43.5
Chlorine	1.5	2.4
Free Ammonia	0.040	0.0
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.001	0.0
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.0	0.7
Oxygen absorbed, $\frac{1}{4}$ hour at 80°F.	0.011	0.007
„ „ 4 hours at 80° F.	0.018	0.013
Nitrites	Absent	Absent

Bowaters. The water is of good organic quality and, therefore, in my opinion, it is suitable for use as a drinking water.

A.P.C.M. Works Canteen. The water is of very good organic quality and, in my opinion, it is suitable for use as a drinking water.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

All milkshops, dairies, bakehouses, workshops were visited at least twice a year by the Sanitary Inspectors and myself.

MILK SUPPLY.

Thirty-three samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, four of which were reported unsatisfactory. Visits were made to the dairies concerned and suggestions put forward for improving the quality of the milk.

Twenty-two samples of milk as supplied to schools were taken. These proved to be satisfactory.

Milk retailed locally is produced in other districts.

FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1938.

This Act is administered by the County Council, and I am indebted to Mr. W. A. Elkington, County Inspector, Dartford, for the following particulars of samples taken in the district during the year:—

Description of sample.	Samples taken.	Result.
Milk	30	27 Genuine, 1 Inferior, 2 grossly underheated.
Veronita	1	Genuine.
Gin	1	"
Butter	1	"
Preserved Peas	1	"
Semolina	2	"
Castor Sugar	1	"
Pearl Barley	1	"
Egg S.R. Flour	1	"
Barlova	1	"
Pork sausages	2	"
Apple Rings	1	"
Condensed Milk	1	"
Strawberry Jam	1	"
Fish Paste	1	"
Lemon flavouring	1	"
Curry Powder	1	"
Oatmeal	1	"
Orange Essence	1	"
Sponge Mixture	1	"
Self-raising flour	1	"
Arrowroot	1	"

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED.

Articles condemned.	Amount.
Tinned Foods	337½ lbs.
Sausages	427½ "
Beef	153½ "
Cheese	89 "
Eggs	48 dozen.
Ham	14 lbs.
Bacon	53 "

Frequent samples of sewage effluent from

Analyst, and the following table shows the

No. of sample.	1	2	3	4	5
Date of Sample.	30/12/42	27/1/43	24/2/43	31/3/43	5/5/43
Nature of sample.	Effluent.	Effluent.	Effluent.	Effluent.	Effluent.
Total dissolved solids	113.50	106.00	61.5	115.0	69.0
Total suspended solids	0.75	9.00	1.5	3.0	3.0
Organic suspended solids	0.25	6.75	1.0	2.0	2.0
Chlorine	24.2	52.0	13.2	27.5	15.0
Free ammonia	1.900	4.08	2.11	2.45	2.108
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.136	0.82	0.34	0.41	0.476
Oxygen absorbed—					
(acid Permanganate $\frac{1}{4}$ hour)	0.490	1.80	0.608	0.656	0.573
(acid Permanganate 4 hrs.)	0.991	3.11	1.064	1.087	0.978
Nitrogen as nitrites	5.0	3.33	1.25	2.5	2.0
Nitrogen as nitrites	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Dissolved oxygen		Exceeds			
requirements in 5 days	1.265	7.0	2.095	2.370	2.485

REMARKS :

Sample No. 1. The effluent was of good quality.

2. The effluent was fit for discharge. It has, however, a high

3. The effluent was of good quality.

4. The effluent was of good quality.

5. The effluent was of good quality.

6. The effluent was of good quality.

7. The effluent was of good quality.

8. The effluent was of good quality.

9. The effluent was of good quality.

10. The effluent was of good quality.

11. The effluent was of good quality.

12. The effluent was of good quality and is suitable for discharge

AGE.

the works are submitted to the County
results expressed in parts per 100,000.

6 26/5/43 Effluent	7 30/6/43 Effluent	8 28/7/43 Effluent	9 25/8/43 Effluent	10 6/10/43 Effluent	11 10/11/43 Effluent	12 8/12/43 Effluent
98.0	105.0	98.0	95.00	100.0	102.00	103.0
0.8	3.0	0.8	2.75	1.5	1.00	6.0
0.5	1.5	0.6	2.25	1.0	0.75	4.0
18.5	18.2	18.5	18.3	22.4	19.7	20.2
1.36	1.90	2.31	3.94	2.04	2.620	3.40
0.34	0.68	0.34	0.41	0.61	0.748	0.54
0.605	0.523	0.56	0.945	0.587	0.500	0.99
0.893	1.057	1.09	1.617	1.164	1.0404	2.03
2.5	5.0	2.5	1.67	3.3	4.17	3.3
Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
			Exceeds			
1.125	3.835	1.94	2.45	1.83	3.31	5

oxygen requirement.

REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF MATERNITY AND CHILD
WELFARE CLINIC AND ANTE-NATAL CLINIC FOR THE YEAR 1943.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
NORTHFLEET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the fifth year of the war I am most pleased to inform you that the Child Welfare Clinic continues to fulfil its most excellent duty in providing for the children in this Town.

Full use is being made of the facilities provided and I am very happy to say that the results are gratifying.

At the commencement of bombing it was decided to hold clinics at the centre twice weekly as usual and distribute food, cod liver oil and orange juice at two subsidiary centres on one day each week. This has thrown a good deal of extra work on our Health Visitor and I think the time is now ripe for a re-organisation of this extra duty and thus relieve the Nurse for her more important work of visiting the mothers and children in their homes.

In the outlying district of Istead Rise, I feel that more provision should be made for the Nurse to see these children in some convenient house where the children could be seen and weighed at regular intervals. There are about 40 children in this neighbourhood.

During the past year the attendance at the Clinic has reached its highest level, namely, 7,847. Of this number I personally see 100 children each week. I think the time has now arrived for an additional day of attendance—I feel we are being overcrowded.

I am sure you will agree that these attendances justify the work which is being done at your Welfare Centre.

I have no knowledge of any case of malnutrition in any child who has attended this clinic—if any exists elsewhere, then it is not the fault of the services which you have so adequately provided.

During the same period 98 expectant mothers have attended the Ante-Natal Clinic for examination and advice.

I am grateful to Mrs. Watson for her most excellent help and co-operation in the difficult period following the retirement of Miss Chick.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES CRAWFORD, M.B.

REPORT OF THE HEALTH VISITOR FOR THE YEAR 1943.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the report for 1943.

Infant Welfare.

The number of live births recorded was 275, the number of Stillbirths being 3, a reduction on the previous year.

Visits to the homes were as follows :—

Ante-Natal Visits				155
0-1 years	}	First visits	273	
		Subsequent visits	1,318	
1-5 years	}	Routine	2,033	
		Special	91	
<hr/>				3,870

Infant Welfare Centre.

Attendances at the Centre were maintained during the year. The number of mothers and children availing themselves of the National Vitamins Scheme was most satisfactory.

Ante-Natal Clinic.

This is held on Thursdays at 2.0 p.m. The assistance of the County Midwives was enlisted to give this service more publicity.

The K.C.C. Evacuation Scheme for mothers has been utilised in a few cases and the residential nursery was opened at Tonbridge for "under fives" whose mothers wished to avail themselves of this facility.

Supplementary Clothing Coupons have been distributed by the Food Office since July 24th, 1943. From 1st January to 24th July, 159 mothers were issued with coupons.

Foster Children.

Five Foster Children were dealt with during the year. Two went to their mothers. One was legally adopted, and two remained on the register at the end of the year.

Adoption of children—June, 1943.

One child has been notified under this act.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Every endeavour has been made to encourage parents to have the children immunised when old enough, either by their own doctors, at the Welfare Centre, or by the Medical Officer.

Ladies' Committee.

Thanks are due to these ladies for their assistance at the Welfare Centre and in all other ways.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

M. E. CHICK.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR, 1943.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
NORTHFLEET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1943. During this year a preliminary survey was made of the houses in the District with a view to action under the Housing Act for the post-war era.

As a result of the Rats and Mice Destruction Act 1943 an intensification of the campaign against vermin was carried out with marked success ; several of the local factories and many private houses have been cleared.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking other members of the staff for their co-operation and assistance.

Infection and Disinfection.

During the year 68 cases of infectious diseases were investigated, viz. :—

Scarlet Fever	.....	18
Tuberculosis	.....	36
Diphtheria	.....	2
Other diseases	.....	12
		—
		68
		—

During the year 59 houses were disinfected and 29 premises disinfested.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

There are 25 persons and premises registered for the carrying on of such business, viz. :—

Dairymen	.....	.....	.....	2
Milkshops (bottle milk only)			.....	20
Sterilised milk (wholesale)		.....	.....	3

Designated Milk.

Three dairymen are licensed to sell “ Tuberculin Tested ” milk and three “ Pasteurised ” milk. One Dairy during the year had a Holder type Pasteurising plant installed.

Bakehouses.

Twenty visits were made to the six bakehouses on the register ; limewashing is carried out regularly and I am pleased to report that the general cleanliness is good.

Other Inspections.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919	65 visits.
Stables	6 inspections.
Shops Act	105 inspections.
Drain testing	15 tests.
	133 other inspections.
Public Health Act, 1936	104 Preliminary Notices served.
	91 Preliminary Notices complied with
	30 Statutory Notices served.
	26 Statutory Notices complied with
Housing Act, 1936	426 visits.
	10 houses rendered fit.

In addition 42 nuisances were abated upon verbal requests by the owners or occupiers of the premises concerned.

Factories Act.

One notice was served and complied with during the year.

A total of 3,065 visits and inspections were made, including 271 for A.R.P. purposes.

Refuse Collection.

A weekly collection was maintained in the urban area and a fortnightly collection in the rural area. There were 4,372 tons of refuse in all.

Street Cleansing.

This service was maintained in its full capacity throughout the year.

Gully and Cesspool emptying.

This service was maintained in a most satisfactory manner.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. S. COWPLAND,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

